FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION
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Memorandum

To : [redacted] (149A-27) (C) Date 5/31/89

From : [redacted]

Subject: UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 811
HONOLULU, HAWAII, TO
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
FEBRUARY 24, 1989
DAMV
OO: HONOLULU

Re memo of SA [redacted] to Legat [redacted] dated 3/6/89.

Captioned incident has been determined to be a result of a mechanical failure. No further investigation is required.

The duplicate tape obtained from Reuters News Agency in regards to this investigation will be placed in the 1-A Section of this file and removed from the FD-504a.

1 - London
[redacted]
(1) [redacted]

[redacted]

149A-27-5

Searched .....
Indexed .....
Serialized
Filed [redacted]

PAGE TWO DE HN 0008 UNCLAS

PASSENGERS AND 18 CREW MEMBERS.

[redacted] AT APPROXIMATELY 2:16 A.M. (HONOLULU TIME), 88 TO [redacted] MILES [redacted] HONOLULU, AT 23,000 FEET, [redacted] "HEARD A THUMP" AND "FELT A LOUD EXPLOSION" ON THE RIGHT SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT. HE WAS TRAVELING AT APPROXIMATELY 300 KNOTS, ATTEMPTING TO REACH HIS CRUISING ALTITUDE OF 31,000 FEET. HE IMMEDIATELY DESCENDED TO 10,000 FEET, INASMUCH AS THE EMERGENCY OXYGEN SYSTEM DID NOT FUNCTION. THE AIRCRAFT WAS EXTREMELY OVERWEIGHT BECAUSE OF THE AMOUNT OF FUEL IN THE AIRCRAFT AND ENGINES NUMBER THREE AND NUMBER FOUR WERE SHUT DOWN BECAUSE OF DIFFICULTIES. HE WAS CONTINUALLY LOSING ALTITUDE BECAUSE OF ONLY TWO OPERATING ENGINES AND AIRCRAFT WEIGHT, AND LANDED AT 2:36 A.M. (HONOLULU TIME), WITHOUT INCIDENT, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS APPROXIMATELY 200,000 POUNDS OVERWEIGHT. EMERGENCY SLIDES WERE ACTIVATED AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURES WERE PLACED IN EFFECT AT HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. SAC EUGENE F. GLENN PROCEEDED TO THE SCENE WITH ALL AGENTS OF THE HONOLULU DIVISION RESPONDING TO INTERVIEW CREW, PASSENGERS, AND OTHERS INVOLVED.

EXAMINATION OF AIRCRAFT DISCLOSES THE RIGHT FORWARD CARGO DOOR MISSING, WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY TEN FEET WIDE. THE HOLE IN

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PAGE THREE DE HN 0008 UNCLAS

THE AIRCRAFT EXTENDS ABOVE THE CARGO DOOR AND MEASURES APPROXIMATELY TEN BY FORTY FEET. PART OF THE FLOOR OF THE AIRCRAFT IS MISSING FOR THE ENTIRE LENGTH OF THE SIDE OF THE AIRCRAFT THAT IS MISSING, INCLUDING ABOUT EIGHT SEATS WHICH WERE "SUCKED" FROM THE AIRCRAFT. DAMAGE WAS DONE TO THE INSIDE OF ENGINE NUMBER THREE AND PARTS OF A BODY WERE REMOVED FROM THAT ENGINE BY THE HONOLULU MEDICAL EXAMINER. ALL AVAILABLE PASSENGERS WERE INTERVIEWED BY HONOLULU DIVISION, INCLUDING TWELVE IN LOCAL HOSPITALS. IN ADDITION, THE CREW OF THE AIRCRAFT WERE INTERVIEWED, AS WELL AS BAGGAGE HANDLERS, PREVIOUS CREWS, AND OTHERS HAVING ACCESS TO THE AIRCRAFT PRIOR TO THE INCIDENT.

EXTREMELY PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION BY HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT (HPD) BOMB EXPERTS AND FBI, HONOLULU, AGENT WITH BOMBING EXPERIENCE BACKGROUND DISCLOSES NO INDICATION OF ANY EXPLOSIVE DEVICE. THERE IS NO INDICATION OF EXTREME HEAT OR JAGGED EDGED REMNANTS OF METAL. CARGO FROM THE SECTION NOT AFFECTED HAS BEEN REMOVED AND EXAMINED BY HPD BOMB EXPERTS, AS WELL AS ALL CARRY-ON BAGGAGE.

FBI BOMB EXPERT FROM LOS ANGELES HAS ARRIVED IN HONOLULU AND TWO BUREAU EXPLOSIVE LABORATORY AGENTS EN ROUTE. NATIONAL

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TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD MEMBER HAS ARRIVED AND OTHER [redacted] TO ARRIVE AT APPROXIMATELY 12:00 P.M. (HONOL[redacted]IME) THIS DATE.

[redacted] BUREAU INTERESTS HAVE BEEN SECURED AND THIS INVESTIGATION IS CONTINUING. AIRCRAFT IS CURRENTLY STORED AT HICKAM AIR FORCE BASE, WHICH IS ADJACENT TO HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, AND ALL POSSIBLE ASSISTANCE BEING RENDERED BY THE U.S. AIR FORCE, HPD, AND OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES.

UNITED AIRLINES ADVISED THAT AIRCRAFT WAS DELIVERED BY BOEING COMPANY ON 11/3/70, AND HAS FLOWN 58,815 HOURS, LOGGED IN 15,021 CYCLES (TAKE-OFF AND LANDING). AIRCRAFT COMPLETED YEARLY "C" CHECK ON 11/16/88, AT UNITED SAN FRANCISCO MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS CENTER, AND THIS CHECK LASTED APPROXIMATELY FOUR DAYS WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED MECHANICS AND INSPECTORS COMPLETING A DETAILED INSPECTION AND REPAIR OF THE AIRCRAFT, ENGINES, COMPONENTS, SYSTEMS, AND CABIN, SUCH AS DOOR HINGES, OPERATING MECHANISMS, FLIGHT CONTROLS, AND STRUCTURES, FOR CORRECT TOLERANCES, OPERATIONS, ETC.

NTSB, BUREAU EXPERTS, AND OTHERS WILL CONDUCT DETAILED INVESTIGATION IN THE A.M. OF 2/25/89, AND BUREAU WILL BE KEPT

[redacted]

PAGE FIVE DE HN 0008 UNCLAS

ADVISED.

[redacted]

NNNN

FD-340a (Rev. 3-12-74)

(Title) UA Flight 811

(File No.) 149A-27

Item	Date Filed		Disposition
1	6/2/89	duplicate tape)	

149A-27-1A

SEARCHED..... INDEXED.....
SERIALIZED..... FILED.....
JUN 1989
LEGAL ATTACHE - London

FD-504a (3-4-82)

File # 149A-27

DUPLICATE
CHAIN OF CUSTODY - ~~ORIGINAL~~ TAPE RECORDING

AGENT SUPERVISING INTERCEPTION NOT APPLICABLE

☐ COURT ORDER AUTHORIZING INTERCEPTION (T-III)

☐ INDIVIDUAL GIVING CONSENT (CONSENSUAL)

INTERCEPTION: 2.24.89 (Date) 85 FLEET STREET, LONDON ECY (Place)

TAPE REMOVED FROM EQUIPMENT: UNKNOWN (Date) (Time)

IDENTITY OF PERSONS INTERCEPTED, IF KNOWN

UNKNOWN MALE

	Accepted Custody	Date	Time	Released Custody	Date	Time
Signature		3/8/89	700 P		3/8/89	700 P
Reason	Copying			filing		
Signature						
Reason						
Signature						
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RECORDING OF GROUP CLAIMING
RESPONSIBILITY FOR PLANE
EXPLODING UPON LEAVING HONOLULU
SIDE 1
3.05
Capitol CASSETTE

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United States Government

MEMORANDUM

To : [redacted]

Date FEB. 27, 1989

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b7C

From : [redacted]

Subject: UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 811
HONOLULU, HAWAII, TO
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
FEBRUARY 24, 1989
(OUR REF: 149A-27)

[redacted]

Enclosed is a copy of a teletype from the FBI office in Honolulu, Hawaii, dated February 24, 1989, and received by this office on February 27, 1989.

This communication is provided to you for your information and interest in light of the crash of Pan Am Flight 103 at Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1989. Any additional summary communications pertaining to this incident will likewise be provided to you.

CC: [redacted]

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Enclosure

1-Addressee
1-[redacted]
1-London (149A-27) (P)
[redacted]
(3)

[redacted]

149A-27-2

Searched .....
Indexed.
Serialized
Filed ....

[redacted]

3/1/89

REUTERS

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Dear [redacted]

Please find enclosed a copy of the statement made to us by the "Guardians of the Islamic Revolution" last week and some related Reuter stories, as promised.

Regards [redacted]

With compliments

Reuters Limited 85 Fleet Street London EC4P 4AJ Telephone: 01-250 1122 Telex 23222
A subsidiary of Reuters Holdings PLC

REUTERS

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28.2.89
E.C.4.

GREAT BRITAIN
019
PP E 1163

[redacted]

LEGAL ATTACHE
U.S. EMBASSY
24 GROSVENOR SQ.
LONDON W1

Reuters Limited 85 Fleet Street London EC4P 4AJ

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EUZ488
UU YDB
201424 REL,DIP,CRI :AM-RUSHDIE-BRITAIN =2 LONDON

At a meeting in Brussels on Monday European Community governments agreed in principle to recall their ambassadors from Iran to protest against Tehran's calls for the assassination of Rushdie, diplomats said.

Runcie appealed to leaders of the estimated 1.5 million Moslems in Britain to "contain their anger within the bounds of the law".

Khomeini has accused Rushdie of blaspheming against Islam in his book "The Satanic Verses" and said on Sunday he should be sent to hell and not expect a reprieve even if he repented.

Indian-born Rushdie, who has denied charges of blasphemy, issued an apology to Moslems from a secret location on Saturday after Iranian President Ali Khamenei said he might be reprieved if he repented.

Britain has four staff at the newly-reopened embassy in Tehran, which was stoned by Iranian protesters last week.

The British government, which restored full diplomatic relations with Tehran in November after a year-long rift, has taken a low-key attitude so far because of fears for the safety of its hostages in Lebanon and a Briton held in Tehran for alleged spying offences.

A pro-Iranian group calling itself the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution telephoned an international news agency in London and threatened to strike against British targets, saying it regarded Britain as "participants in blasphemy against Islam".

The group has rung agencies on several occasions since December, claiming responsibility for the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Scotland that killed 270 people. It has offered no proof of its involvement and security services know little about its background.

The caller said that if Rushdie did not come out of hiding "the British embassy, British Airways abroad and internal places like pubs and discos and government offices will be our targets".

He named Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Home Secretary Douglas Hurd as possible targets, saying they should remember what happened to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat when he gave sanctuary to the late Shah of Iran.

Sadat was gunned down by Moslem fundemantalists while watching a military parade in October, 1981. The Shah, deposed in the 1979 revolution which brought Khomeini to power, lived in Egypt until his death in 1980.

REUTER KRD PFS

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149-27-3

SEARCHED.....
SERIALIZED.....
2 1989
LEGAL ATTACHE - London

Feb 24 Statement.

Story #87796 Printed by [redacted] on 24feb89 at 18:17:50

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in the name of god and the imam khomeini: on 22 january this year for the second and last time we have ordered american to throw out reza pahlavi. we gave them sufficient time. we take responsibility for the blowing up of the airline to new zealand today. this is just to say we are serious and next time is a real real surprise. guardians of the islamic revolution .

Story #54805 Printed by [redacted] on 24feb89 at 20:03:50 b6 b7C

GROUP THREATENS NEW PLANE BOMBING

LONDON, Dec 30, Reuter - A man speaking in the name of the group that claimed responsibility for the Pan Am Corp [PN] plane bombing threatened another attack unless the son of the late Shah of Iran is thrown out of the U.S. as soon as possible.

The man telephoned news agencies here on behalf of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution which claimed last week it downed the jumbo jet over Scotland. About 270 people died.

The man said the Guardians were concerned about the activities in the U.S. and Europe of Reza Pahlavi, son of the late Shah.

"We would like to ask America to throw him out of America as soon as possible or, in the new year, America will have another present from us," he said.

REUTER

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ISLAMIC REVOLUTIONARY GROUP CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY FOR CRASH

LONDON, Dec 22, Reuter - A man describing himself as spokesman for the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution, a hitherto unknown organisation, claimed on Thursday that it was responsible for the Pan American jumbo jet crash in Scotland.

In a telephone call to an international news agency, the man, who refused to give his name, said the crash victims were "executed" in revenge for the shooting-down of an Iran Air Airbus in the Gulf last July by the U.S. warship Vincennes.

All 290 people on board the Airbus, mistakenly identified as an Iranian F-14 fighter, were killed.

"This is our revenge for the innocent victims of the shooting-down of that plane in the Gulf," the caller said. He refused to give any other details.

Middle East experts said they had no knowledge of such an organisation.

REUTER

Memorandum

To : [redacted] (149A-27) (P) Date MARCH 6, 1989

From : [redacted]

Subject: UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 811
HONOLULU, HAWAII, TO
AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND
FEBRUARY 24, 1989
DAMV
(OO: HONOLULU)

On 2/24/89 the writer telephonically contacted [redacted] Reuters News Agency, telephone number [redacted] after receiving information [redacted]

[redacted] stated that at approximately 1630 hours on 2/24/89 a male caller had called Reuters, [redacted] receiving the telephone call. [redacted] stated that this male had a Mid-Eastern accent and spoke to her in calm tones. The caller indicated that he had a message to provide Reuters in connection with the explosion aboard captioned flight. He dictated the message which lasted approximately one minute, repeating each phrase twice. The message was as follows: "In the name of God and the Ayetollah KHOMEINI on January 22, 1989, this year for the second and last time we have ordered America to throw out [redacted] We gave them sufficient time. We take responsibility for the blowing up of the airline to New Zealand today. This is just to say we are serious and next time is a real, real surprise. Guardians of the Islamic Revolution."

[redacted] stated that the call sounded distant but not international. The caller hung up immediately after claiming credit for the Guardians of the Islamic Revolutio[redacted]

[redacted]
(1)

[redacted]

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[redacted] stated that the first claim by this group was made to Reuters on 12/22/89 at which time they claimed responsibility for the crash of Pan Am 103. On 12/30/89 and again on approximately 1/20/89 an individual with a Middle Eastern accent called stating that he was a representative of the same organization and that "we would like to ask America to throw him [redacted] out as soon as possible or in the new year America will have another present from us." On 2/20/89 an individual called with a Middle Eastern accent stating that as the result of the [redacted] that British targets will be attacked such as British Embassies, British pubs, [redacted] etc. This individual claimed to be a representative of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution. b6 b7C

[redacted] stated that on each occasion a different correspondent has received the telephone call so they have been unable to determine if the calls were made by the same individual. She stated that Reuters does not record their telephonic conversations so, therefore, there has been no recordings made of these calls. b6 b7C

On 2/27/89 [redacted] b6 b7C b7D
[redacted] London, provided the writer with a taped cassette of the call made by an individual [redacted] This anonymous caller claimed credit for the blowing up of captioned flight in the name of the Guardians of the Islamic Revolution. [redacted] copy of the call [redacted] The enclosed is a transcription of the taped recording [redacted] to [redacted] can be reached at telephone number [redacted]

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ZCZC SAC086 NLB865
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[redacted]

"IN THE NAME OF ALLAH AND IMAM KHOMEINI, ON THE 22 OF JANUARY THIS YEAR FOR THE SECOND AND LAST TIME, WE HAVE ASKED THE AMERICANS TO THROW [redacted] OUT OF AMERICA," THE MAN TOLD UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL. "WE HAVE GIVEN SUFFICIENT TIME TO THE AMERICANS NOTHING HAPPENED.

"TODAY WE ARE TAKING RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE BLOWING UP OF THE AMERICAN AIRLINE OVER HONOLULU. WE ALSO STATE WE ARE VERY SERIOUS. WE ARE VERY SERIOUS. AND IF [redacted] IS NOT THROWN OUT, AMERICA WILL HAVE A VERY, VERY BIG SURPRISE. THAT IS THE GUARDIANS OF THE ISLAMIC REVOLUTION."

[redacted]

[redacted]

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RECEIVED
TELETYPE UNIT

25 FEB 89 01 2125Z

FBI BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

[redacted] (#12873)

[redacted]

OO HQ

DE HN [redacted] 0500542

ZNR UUUUU

O 2405002 FEB 89

FM FBI HONOLULU (149A-428)

TO DIRECTOR FBI /IMMEDIATE/

BT

UNCLAS

CITE: //3280//

PASS: FUG/ORC UNIT, CID; CID DUTY AGENT.

SUBJECT: UNITED AIRLINES FLIGHT 811, HONOLULU, HAWAII, TO AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND, 2/24/89; DAMV; OO: HONOLULU.

RE NUMEROUS HONOLULU TELCALS TO THE BUREAU ON 2/24/89.

AT 1:03 A.M. (HONOLULU TIME), 2/24/89, UNITED AIRLINES BOEING 747, AIRCRAFT NUMBER N4713U, DEPARTED HONOLULU INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, GATE TEN. FLIGHT ORIGINATED IN SAN FRANCISCO, UTILIZING BOEING 727, AND ARRIVED IN LOS ANGELES. AT [redacted], THE FLIGHT WAS SWITCHED TO THE BOEING 747 AND PROCEEDED TO HONOLULU. THE FLIGHT DEPARTED HONOLULU [redacted]

WITN 336 10-1

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SEARCHED ..... FILED.....
27 FEB 1989
LEGAL ATTACHE - L[redacted]